

Through a Gender Lens: ISSUE BRIEF

HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

Fighting the Hidden Crime of Modern-Day Slavery

— by Elizabeth H. Jeter, M.A.

*“Slavery has been fruitful in giving herself names...and it will call itself
by yet another name; and you and I and all of us had better wait and see
what new form this old monster will assume, in what new skin
this old snake will come forth.”*

— FREDERICK DOUGLASS, 1865¹



Spring 2014

THE WOMEN'S FUND OF WINSTON-SALEM



THE IMPACT OF MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

INTRODUCTION

Modern-day slavery, more commonly known as human trafficking, is a hidden crime, which is now emerging to international attention with the United States at the forefront of anti-trafficking efforts. North Carolina supports a growing infrastructure that provides laws, organizational coalitions, awareness campaigns, and social services for combating this crime, but little work is done in Forsyth County. This issue brief introduces the topic of human trafficking, while inspiring readers to learn more about what is possible in our community.

DEFINITION

U.S. Department of State defines human trafficking as,

- a. Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- b. The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

A victim need not be physically transported from one location to another in order for the crime to fall within these definitions.²

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services refines this definition by explaining force, fraud, and coercion as:

- Force – can involve the use of physical restraint or serious physical harm.
- Fraud – involves false promises regarding employment, wages, working conditions, or other matters.
- Coercion – can involve threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.³

ECONOMIC INSECURITY

Economic insecurity is the leading cause of human trafficking. It limits employment opportunities and choices, leaving people vulnerable to exploitation.^{2,4} From runaways and illegal immigrants to desperate families in poverty, laborers facing additional employment barriers – such as gender, language, education, generational poverty, legal status, criminal record, disability, age, and social isolation – are open to various forms of force, fraud, and/or coercion. Vulnerable populations are

also greatly affected by high unemployment rates and competition that render laborers disposable under current economic conditions.^{5,6} In North Carolina, it is essential for local communities to evaluate their di-

verse industries and labor populations to identify areas susceptible to human trafficking as well as provide the training to identify specific trafficking cases that arise.

“In North Carolina, it is essential for local communities to evaluate their diverse industries and labor populations to identify areas susceptible to human trafficking.”

HISTORY

With the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000, the federal government began supporting programs and taskforces across the country to combat human trafficking. These federal efforts combine the skills and resources of diverse organizations and agencies to address the complexities of trafficking. Anti-trafficking efforts often include prevention, awareness, outreach, victim identification, and victim services as well as aiding law enforcement in case investigation and prosecution.

The North Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking (NCCAHT) was founded in 2004. Through the work of NCCAHT and countless community organizations, North Carolina has been successful in enacting the initial phases of anti-trafficking efforts, but there is more work to be done. Forsyth County organizations can connect with the current infrastructure, but also initiate new and innovative programs to address emerging challenges, like building stronger bonds with vulnerable communities and broadening awareness among individuals, organizations, and agencies working with vulnerable populations.

SCOPE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

26 million people are enslaved worldwide with less than **1%** identified last year. ²



HUMAN TRAFFICKING GENERATES
32 billion U.S. DOLLARS IN ANNUAL PROFITS
WITH **15.5 billion** GENERATED WITHIN
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ⁷

100,000 to 150,000 people are trafficked within the
U.S. each year ^{8 9} with an additional **14,500–17,500**
people trafficked into the U.S. annually. ¹⁰

NORTH CAROLINA
RANKS IN THE



STATES FOR HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
ACTIVITY. ¹¹

North Carolina ranks in the



states for fighting human
trafficking with a
comprehensive legal
framework. ¹²

From 2005–2011,
two major North Carolina nonprofits worked **48** cases that were
identified statewide, leading to services for **55** victims. ^{13 14}

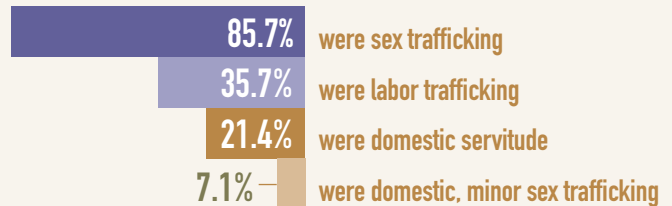
12–14

AVERAGE AGE OF GIRLS ENTERING
JUVENILE PROSTITUTION IN THE U.S. ¹⁵



48 HOURS is the average time
juveniles spend on the streets before
being approached by pimps and
drug dealers. ¹⁶

A survey of North Carolina law enforcement agencies found that
out of the trafficking cases they encountered:



(Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses from some agencies.) ¹⁷

IN 2009, A SURVEY BY THE NORTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS CENTER FOUND:

Screening clients for trafficking is an effective victim identification method, especially for organizations
working with vulnerable populations.

Despite receiving training, the majority of organizations lacked an
action plan for addressing human trafficking.

There is a need for more local coordination of organizational networks and funding to increase
availability of trafficking victim services, especially in rural areas. ¹⁸

CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

NORTH CAROLINA COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING (NCCAHT) has 40 members including government agencies, social service organizations, law enforcement, religious organizations, and researchers. The coalition organizes anti-trafficking efforts across the state and is central in providing training, identifying and investigating cases, and organizing social services for victims. The coalition oversees Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) that organize emergency response and resources for trafficking cases. The RRTs cover six regions in the state, including the Triad.

[HTTP://NCCASA.NET/NCCAHT/](http://nccasa.net/nccaht/)

WORLD RELIEF HIGH POINT was an early NCCAHT member. They provide comprehensive programming that includes awareness/education, outreach, victim case management, and opportunities for volunteers. They run the Triad's RRT to coordinate local law enforcement and social service organizations. They also advocate for victims with state and local governments, including a presentation for the Winston-Salem City Council in January 2014.

[HTTP://WORLDRELIEFHIGHPOINT.ORG/HUMAN-TRAFFICKING](http://worldreliefhighpoint.org/human-trafficking)

THE SALVATION ARMY OF WAKE COUNTY also provides a compelling model for organizations interested in anti-trafficking work. They provide comprehensive programming that includes awareness/education, outreach, victim case management, agency/organizational collaboration, prevention programming, and various opportunities for volunteers.

[HTTP://WWW.SALVATIONARMYCAROLINAS.ORG/WAKECOUNTY/PROGRAMS/SOCIAL-MINISTRIES/PROJECT-FIGHT/](http://www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/wakecounty/programs/social-ministries/project-fight/)

NC STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING is a web-based organization that provides information and organizes anti-trafficking events statewide. This is a great starting point for community members interested in learning more about trafficking, meeting like-minded groups, and attending local awareness events.

[HTTP://NCSTOPHUMANTRAFFICKING.WORDPRESS.COM](http://ncstophumantrafficking.wordpress.com)

*National Human Trafficking Resource Center
Hotline, call 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or
INFO to BeFree (233733).*

ENDNOTES

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⁷ International Labour Office (2005). *A global alliance against forced labour*. Geneva Switzerland: United Nations, International Labour Office.

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¹⁸ Sullivan, T. (2010). The human trafficking training and provision survey for North Carolina. *SystemStats*, 27(4), 1–11.